



Secretary: Catherine Bryan

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Dear Hamilton City Council 2010 Candidate,

I would like to introduce to you, Sustainable Waikato. We are a diverse group of citizens, from all walks of life and political persuasions. We wish to advocate for and endorse suitable candidates in the upcoming elections for Environment Waikato and Hamilton City Council who align with the principles and practices of sustainability.

Hamilton City Council is the local authority managing the principal urban centre for the Waikato Region. Waikato is one of the most productive farming regions of New Zealand, responsible for a significant proportion of national export earnings. This makes our wellbeing and prosperity very dependent on the environment and on the sustainable management of resources going forward.

In addition to robust environmental management, sustainability is about making other choices that have positive long-term implications. This includes the investment in infrastructure, improving safety and wellbeing of residents, supporting the preservation and celebration of heritage and culture, and supporting sustainable economic development. We are very interested in your views on the attached matters that relate to sustainability.

It would be appreciated if you would please offer some feedback on the attached questions and email the response back to info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz or post to the street address above, not later than **Friday, September 3rd 2010**. Your responses will be considered and will inform part of our candidate assessment process which can be found on our website <http://sustainablewaikato.org.nz/>.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine Bryan

Secretary

Sustainable Waikato

1. Do you think the City Council should have a role in encouraging economic development in Hamilton? If so, what do you think would be the best way of doing this?

2. What do you consider to be the main environmental issues for Hamilton?

3. Overall, what do you see as the top three priorities for making Hamilton more sustainable in the next five to ten years?

4. The City has 85 different ethnic groups from 65 different countries. How can the City celebrate this cultural diversity while helping the community to knit together?

5. In your view, what things can the Council do to preserve and improve the social well-being of residents of the City?

6. How do you think we can make Hamilton's roads safer and friendlier for pedestrians and cyclists?

7. Would you support the continuation of bus services outside of peak times (for example, Sunday and public holidays)? Why/why not?

8. What do you think are the main barriers to preserving Hamilton's History and built heritage and how can Council help?

9. How should Council support community-led projects that contribute to the City's social, cultural or environmental well-being?

10. If it was shown that setting up an independent (i.e. not council-owned) water supply company would reduce the rates burden for the City, would you support this? Can you explain why or why not?

11. What can Hamiltonians do as families or individuals to make their lifestyles more sustainable?

12. Many people commute to Hamilton daily from other Waikato towns such as Cambridge, Ngaruawahia, Raglan and Te Awamutu to work. Rising fuel costs will make this increasingly difficult. Existing bus services are inadequate for sensible commuter use. What do you think the City Council could do to improve the transport options for commuters?